

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process comprising

coating a pipe with a coating material in a fluidized-bed coating basin comprising an induction coil incorporated in said fluidized-bed coating basin, an air flush system positioned above the pipe and one or more metal flow-guide panels positioned below the pipe,

the coating material comprising one or more pulverulent fusible polymers to form a coated pipe having a polymer coating,

melting the polymer coating to form a pipe having a melt coating, and cooling to form a pipe having a hardened coating,

wherein the pipe is not treated with chromate and

wherein melting comprises heating with an induction coil at a frequency of from 2,000 to 10,000 Hz. T

Claim 2 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material comprises a polyamide.

Claim 3 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material comprises at least one of nylon-11 or nylon-12.

Claim 4 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material comprises nylon-12 in the form of a precipitated powder.

Claim 5 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating has a thickness of from 50 to 1,000 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed 30%.

Claim 6 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating has a thickness of from 50 to 300 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed 30%.

Claim 7 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating has a thickness of from 50 to 300 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed 20%.

Claim 8 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising applying a primer to a pipe to form a primed pipe and baking the primed pipe.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the primed pipe is baked with an induction coil at a frequency of from 2,000 to 10,000 Hz.

Claim 10 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the primer comprises a solvent, and baking comprises evaporating the solvent.

Claim 11 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 10, further comprising dissipating the evaporated solvent with a radial fan.

Claims 12 and 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising

preheating the pipe with an induction coil before coating the pipe with the coating material.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising

smoothing the coated pipe having a polymer coating by heating with a medium frequency an induction coil before melting the polymer coating.

Claim 16 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising applying an adhesion promoter to the pipe, where the adhesion promoter is in the form of a suspension, a solution or a powder.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cooling to form a pipe having a hardened coating comprises pre-cooling the pipe having a melt coating with an air flush system then cooling with water to form the pipe having a hardened coating.

Claim 18 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 8, further comprising cleaning the pipe before applying the primer.

Claim 19 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein only the external surface of the pipe is coated.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A pipe coated by the process as claimed in claim 1, comprising a primer layer and a polymer coating layer comprising a fusible polymer.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A pipe coated by a chromate-free process, comprising a primer layer and a polymer coating layer applied in a fluidized-bed coating process.